

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 02061 301933Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 MCT-02 EB-08 SY-05
FAA-00 DOTE-00 SMS-01 /091 W
-----025328 301937Z /50

O P 301900Z AUG 78 ZFF-4
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7577
AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2061

DEPARTMENT FOR AMBASSADOR STOESSEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, WB, PL, GE, UR
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV ON HIJACKING

1. MISOFF VISITING SOVIET EMBASSY ON ROUTINE BUSINESS
WAS CALLED BACK AS HE WAS ABOUT TO ENTER HIS CAR AT ABOUT 1620
LOCAL TIME AND USHERED INTO PRESENCE OF MINISTER KHOTULEV, WHO
READ STATEMENT IN RUSSIAN BUT LEFT NO PAPER. FOLLOWING
IS TEXT AS GIVEN BY RUSSIAN INTERPRETER:

2. QUOTE: THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR DESIRES YOU TO TELL
AMBASSADOR STOESSEL ON A PERSONAL BASIS THAT THE
CRIMINAL WHO FORCED THE AIRCRAFT TO LAND AT THE
AMERICAN MILITARY AIRPORT WILL BE GIVEN TO THE GDR
AUTHORITIES AS IS ENVISAGED IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND
THE CORRESPONDING AGREEMENTS SIGNED BY THE UNITED STATES.

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3. QUOTE: THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT
HUNDREDS OF U.S. AIRCRAFT ARE FLYING IN GDR AIRSPACE
AND THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT ONE OF THEM WILL LOSE
ITS WAY OR BE FORCED TO LAND AT SOME AIRFIELD IN THE
GDR. IN SUCH A SITUATION, WHEN YOU APPEAL TO THE SOVIET
OR GDR AUTHORITIES, THEN WE SHALL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT YOUR
ACTIONS IN THIS INSTANCE TODAY.

4. QUOTE: THE AMBASSADOR WAS VERY MUCH EMBARRASSED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS DELAYED FOR SIX HOURS. UNQUOTE.

5. WE FEEL THIS THREATENING MESSAGE WILL NECESSITATE A REPLY AFTER COORDINATION WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH. WE WILL NOT HOWEVER SHARE IT WITH OUR ALLIES HERE UNTIL AUTHORIZED TO DO SO SINCE IT WAS BILLED TO US AS A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR STOESEL.

6. POLAD COMMENT: I WAS SURPRISED TO READ THIS RATHER HARDLINE MESSAGE WHEN I RETURNED TO THE OFFICE FROM TEMPELHOF BECAUSE IT WAS DELIVERED TO MISSION OFFICER SHORTLY AFTER I HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER TWICE BY TELEPHONE WITH MINISTER KHOTULEV. DURING OUR FIRST CONVERSATION AT APPROXIMATELY 1520 LOCAL TIME, KHOTULEV STATED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING FROM AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV'S OFFICE AND WISHED TO CONVEY TO ME A PERSONAL REQUEST FROM ABRASIMOV THAT WE DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO EXPEDITE THE DEPARTURE OF THE AIRCRAFT. I REPLIED THAT THAT WAS PRECISELY WHAT WE WERE DOING AND THAT I EXPECTED OUR INVESTIGATION WOULD BE COMPLETED AND THE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE ABLE TO DEPART WITHIN THE NEXT HALF HOUR. I TOLD KHOTULEV THAT I WOULD TELEPHONE HIM AGAIN WHEN THE AIRCRAFT ACTUALLY LEFT TEMPELHOF. THE SECOND CONVERSATION WAS AT APPROXIMATELY 1600. I INFORMED KHOTULEV THAT THE PLANE WAS AIRBORNE. HE THANKED

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ME FOR THE INFORMATION AND ADDED THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY BE IN TOUCH WITH ME AGAIN WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS ABOUT THIS MATTER. END COMMENT. NELSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Subject: MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV ON HIJACKING
TAGS: PINS, WB, PL, GC, UR, US
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